



Missouri Community Service Commission's Bi-Monthly Newsletter

12/18/2003

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AmeriCorps Purdy Reading Coaches & FCCLA

"MAD About Reading"

Make A Difference Day

October 25, 2003

The Purdy Reading Coaches, an AmeriCorps Program and FCCLA (Family Career Community Leader's of America) are pleased to announce for a third year their canned food and used children's book drive was a huge success at Purdy R-II Schools.



School-wide, 1,882 non-perishable food items and used children's books were collected. This was up 22% from last year. The collection was divided and taken to Crosslines in Monett and the Purdy Ministerial Alliance to help with their holiday food baskets. They have graciously said they would put children's books in the food baskets to share the importance of feeding the minds and the bodies of children.

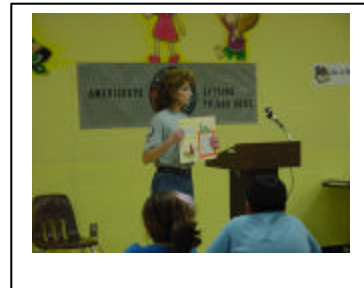


Celebrate Volunteerism – It can be rewarding!

Mrs. Ulmer's 5th grade class won a popcorn and movie party for collecting 260 items in an elementary classroom. The 8th grade class won ice cream at lunch for collecting 188 items in middle school, and FCCLA won a party for the most participation in high school. The Reading Coaches and students of FCCLA believe it is important to feed the mind and the body.

Twenty-three FCCLA members, along with their director, Myra McGee, joined 12 Purdy Reading Coaches and the AmeriCorps director, Raynel Schallert, to put on a fun and

fantastic Make a Difference Day, Reading Fair on Saturday, October 25, 2003. The importance of reading and literacy was the theme of the fair. Admission to the fair was one canned good per child who received a free book. The Reading Coaches read books to the children who then received a ticket to participate in the booths manned by the FCCLA members. FCCLA member Elvia Gomez and Reading Coach Yadira Gonzalez read books in Spanish to reach our Hispanic community members. The FCCLA members entertained 43 children and adults with face and nail painting, a fishpond, balloons, cupcake decorating, bean bag toss and etc. Lots of prizes donated by area businesses were given away. With collaboration between the AmeriCorps program and FCCLA, families will be fed and books will be in children's hands to instill the feelings of the Purdy Reading Coaches and FCCLA, **"Feed the Body, Feed the Mind!"**



The Purdy Reading Coaches had a "Read Night" on November 20 at 7p.m. in the Purdy School cafeteria. Parents were invited to come and learn about "AmeriCorps" and the practices the Reading Coaches use when helping students read.

Raynel Schallert, Director of the program introduced the Coaches and gave background information on AmeriCorps and how it came to Purdy. Coach Edna Haynes called the students attending forward and demonstrated a "reading session" and Coach Shelly Williams showed and talked about some of the books and tools used by the Coaches. Coach Tammie Nibert and Coach Marcia Morgan demonstrated what materials and books they used with their Kindergartens and First graders. The coaches enjoyed meeting with the parents and discussing the progress of their students. A drawing sent books home with every student attending.

This was the first of four "Read Night" meetings planned throughout the year to promote AmeriCorps and the importance of READING.



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Republic Reading Coaches

The Republic Reading Coaches are off to a good start for the 2003-2004 school year. Our numbers are small (six), but we have a very enthusiastic group who are actively involved in tutoring students who have been identified as reading two or more levels below grade level.

Recent activities included participating in the annual Republic Pumpkin Daze activities. Members painted children's faces, decorated book markers, and passed out AmeriCorps informational flyers.

Make A Difference Day was a big success, as the Reading Coaches, with community support, collected over 600 items that were distributed to local nursing home and People Helping People (a non-profit organization that assists families in need).

With the approach of the holidays, members participated in the Republic Christmas Parade on November 22nd and are committed to spend all day Saturday, December 20th working with the Crosslines Toy give-a-way program in Springfield.

Republic Goes to Washington, DC

In early September, Rita Donica, Director, represented Missouri as she participated in Voices for AmeriCorps: 100 Hours of National Service Testimony in Washington, DC. This was a very rewarding experience as success testimonies on national service from across the nation were presented.

Washington visits Missouri

On Monday, December 8, 2003, Mr. Mike McKay, Deputy Director of AmeriCorps visited Kansas City. Sue Cerny of CNS (Community & National Service) in Kansas City, MO and MCSC (Missouri Community Service Commission) Executive Director Linda Jackson accompanied Mr. McKay on several site visits.

The first visit of the day was to a **Learn & Serve Project, the Baptist Educational Center** where Stephanie Hill is the Coordinator. Stephanie, though given short notice, provided an excellent tour of their facility and gave us an overview of many exciting projects that their kids worked on. One important note is that the kids make their own decisions to work on projects and provide service to their community. This is volunteerism at its finest. These are children who are in gifted classes. They work with the hospice center to provide companion to those in need. They've built a beautiful courtyard where they grow herbs, flowering plants, trees, and various types of grasses. The children have created lovely tile for their courtyard and are in the process of building a greenhouse. Stephanie was a wonderful host and we really appreciated her putting this together for us on such short notice.

Next, we visited a **VISTA project, Habitat ReStore**. Misti Schmidt and Rachel Ashworth who gave us a wonderful tour of the facility greeted us. This store was stocked with lumber, nails, bathroom & kitchen fixtures, lighting fixtures, carpeting; practically everything that you would find in a hardware store. "ReStore provides both new and used

building materials at bargain prices and the store is open to the public."

- "Proceeds from the sale of materials supports Habit for Humanity/Kansas City's primary objectives of building affordable, energy-efficient houses for low-income families, and the rehabilitation of urban residential neighborhoods.
- "Homeowners, landlords and remodelers have access to the materials at low prices, allowing them to maintain their properties -which increases neighborhood property values and strengthens the community."
- "ReStore diverts large amounts of reusable materials from landfills, saving valuable resources, as well as saving the donor from paying disposal fees."
- "Restore's daily operations provide meaningful volunteer opportunities for individuals and groups."

"You can also help ReStore by making a donation of building supplies in good, useable condition that are salvaged or left over from your home improvement project. Self-delivery is encouraged, but pick-ups may be scheduled. Your donation may be tax deductible...."

You may learn more about ReStore by clicking on www.restorekc.org or call them at (816) 231-6889.

The last visit for the day was an **AmeriCorps project, Boys & Girls Club of Greater Kansas City – The John Thornberry Center**. Denisha Tate, Director of Operations and Patricia Kern, Vice President of Marketing and Development greeted us. This was a most enjoyable and enlightening visit. Arriving just in time to see the children doing homework, working on crafts; seeing Dominique and the other children at the center reminded us that what we are doing makes a difference in the lives of many!

"The Vision of the Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Kansas City – We seek to be the leader in providing developmental opportunities for significant numbers of youth from disadvantaged circumstances. In this pursuit, we will offer comprehensive and generation changing activities for members of all ages that will result in tangible outcomes by utilizing attractive Club locations that have adequate space, equipment and staff. Ultimately, we will strive to demonstrate true partnerships between our members, their families, the volunteers and staff, and to value active and involved participating by each in the daily life of the Clubs."

To read more about the Boys & Girls Club, click on www.bgc-gkc.org.

The Missouri Community Service Commission

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PRESS RELEASE

VOLUNTEER SERVICE BY AMERICANS INCREASES

From: "Harrison, Rosa" <RHarriso@cns.gov>

Date: Wed, 17 Dec 2003 17:05:04 -0500

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

VOLUNTEER SERVICE BY AMERICANS INCREASES

Assistant to the President and Director of USA Freedom Corps John M. Bridgeland welcomed today's news from the Bureau of Labor Statistics that significantly more Americans participated in volunteer service in the past year.

The Bureau of Labor Statistics of the U.S. Department of Labor reported today that both the number of volunteers and the volunteer rate rose over the year ended in September 2003. About 63.8 million people did volunteer work at some point from September 2002 to September 2003, up from 59.8 million for the similar period ended in September 2002. The percentage of the American population who volunteered has increased to 28.8 percent, up from 27.4 percent the previous year.

"This significant increase in the number of volunteers shows a strengthening of America's civil society - the fabric of our nation," Bridgeland said. "We know there was an increase in Americans participating in volunteer service in the aftermath of 9/11. There was a surge of interest and activity. Americans wanted to do something; they wanted to contribute to their communities and their country."

"Today's announcement demonstrates that even more Americans are stepping forward to serve in their communities, which is what the President and his USA Freedom Corps set out to do - work with nonprofits, businesses, educational institutions and the government to foster a culture of service and citizenship that would last," Bridgeland said.

The response to the President's call to service has been enthusiastic and strong for every program and category measured. Through USA Freedom Corps, more than 900 local communities have formed Citizen Corps Councils, doctors and nurses in 170 communities are now part of a new Medical Reserve Corps, Neighborhood Watch programs have doubled, programs providing volunteers to police departments have increased 900 percent, and Community Emergency Response Team training has more than tripled, expanding to 635 communities in 51 states and territories. The Peace Corps received its largest budget ever and has grown to nearly 7,600 members while the President's new Volunteers for Prosperity initiative is enlisting more American professionals to volunteer abroad to support global health and prosperity.

The Corporation for National and Community Service and AmeriCorps also are on track to receive their largest funding increase in history.

Forty-four percent of those who volunteered reported they did so because they were asked. Teenagers showed the greatest increases in volunteer service. The data on volunteering was collected through a supplement to the September 2003 Current Population Survey, a monthly survey of about 60,000 households that obtains information on employment and unemployment among the nation's civilian non-institutional population age 16 and over. For more information, visit: <http://www.bls.gov/cps/>

The volunteer service indicator is an annual national measurement of volunteer behavior developed by the Census Bureau and Bureau of Labor Statistics with the USA Freedom Corps.

President Bush created the USA Freedom Corps office at the White House to foster a culture of service, citizenship and responsibility. Through the USA Freedom Corps, President Bush wants to help every American answer the call to volunteer service by strengthening and expanding service opportunities to protect our homeland, support our communities and extend American compassion around the world. Interested volunteers can find opportunities in their own neighborhoods through the USA Freedom Corps web site at www.usafreedomcorps.gov or by calling 1-877-USA-CORPS.

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**Wishing you and yours a
very happy and safe holiday
season.**

**The Missouri Community Service
Commission**



HEADS UP!



Community Development Block Grant Programs (CDBG) Workshops

January 5, 2004	<u>Jefferson City, MO</u> , Harry S Truman Building, 301 W. High St., Room 500	9:00 am - 12:00 noon
January 5, 2004	<u>St. James, MO</u> , Meramec Regional Planning Commission, # 4 Industrial Drive	2:00 pm - 5:00 pm
January 6, 2004	<u>Hannibal, MO</u> , Hannibal City Hall Council Chambers, 320 Broadway	10:00 am - 1:00 pm
January 7, 2004	<u>Cameron, MO</u> , Missouri Federal Savings Bank, 515 Platte Clay Way	9:00 am - 12:00 noon
January 13, 2004	<u>Poplar Bluff</u> , Ozark Foothills Regional Planning Commission, 3019 Fair	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
January 14, 2004	<u>Ozark, Ozark</u> , City Hall Council Chambers, 205 N. 1st Street	1:00 pm - 4:00 pm
January 15, 2004	<u>Clinton</u> , Benson Convention Center, 1008 East Sedalia Street	9:00 am - 12:00 noon

The Missouri CDBG Program will hold seven training sessions in January to teach participants how to complete the FY-2004 CDBG application for non-entitlement areas of the state (Cities of less than 50,000 and counties of less than 200,000 in population). Participants will learn the basic application requirements, plus more specific information geared toward each category of funding. FY-2004 applications will be available at each training session. The training is free and open to the public, and no registration is needed.

As part of the Missouri Department of Economic Development, CDBG helps Missouri communities improve local facilities, address critical health and safety concerns, and create a greater capacity for development. For more information, please call the CDBG office at (573) 751-3600.

Neighborhood Assistance Programs (NAP) Workshops

January 7, 2004	<u>Jefferson City, MO</u> , James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 West Main	9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
January 13, 2004	<u>Jefferson City, MO</u> , James C. Kirkpatrick State Information Center, 600 West Main	1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Dr. Martin Luther King Celebration

January 12, 2004	<u>Jefferson City, MO</u> , Capitol Plaza Hotel	10:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon
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For more information, click on: <http://www.state.mo.us/> or <http://www.oa.mo.gov/oeo/MLK04/>

*****IMPORTANT NOTICE*****

Staff at the Department of Economic Development is in the process of revising MoCAP (Missouri Community Assessment Program). **In May of 2004**, we will introduce these revisions by conducting a workshop. You will be notified of the exact date and location at a later date. **New guidelines will be effective June 1st 2004.**

If you are currently in the process of completing MoCAP and would like to be presented with your certification at the 2004 Governor's Conference on Economic Development, you will need to send your finished product to the Department of Economic Development, Attn: **MoCAP Reviewers**, P. O. Box 118, Jefferson City, MO 65102 no later than **March 1st 2004**. **Copies must be in this office by 5:00 pm on March 1st.** We will accept hard copies by mail or delivery. Electronic copies are also acceptable. **We will not accept faxed copies.**

Questions and/or concerns in regards to this letter should be directed to Linda Jackson or Sallie Hemenway. In order to respond to your questions and concerns in the timeliest manner, please submit them in writing to us using electronic mail.

Sallie Hemenway

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Linda Jackson

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Thank you for your continued efforts to make Missouri the best place to work, live and vacation.